

### Abstract

An actuating apparatus for operating a drive or retardation means of a motor vehicle, comprising a signal converter (26; 60) which produces a control signal dependent on the actuating travel, wherein the signal converter (26; 60) comprises an elastic and conductive shaped body having a first and second outside surface which are arranged at a spacing relative to each other, which is provided with a first electrical contact region (29; 62) which extends over the first outside surface of the shaped body and which is galvanically conductively connected on the one hand to the shaped body and on the other hand to a first feed line (30; 64) and a second electrical contact region (29'; 63) which extends along the second surface of the shaped body and is galvanically conductively connected on the one hand to the shaped body and on the other hand to a second feed line (30'; 65), and wherein the electrical resistance of the shaped body between the two contact regions (29, 29'; 62, 63) is dependent on the spacing of the two contact regions (29, 29'; 62, 63) and that connected downstream of the signal converter (26; 60) is a measurement transducer (32) whose outputs are connected by way of the feed lines (30, 30'; 64, 65) to the first and second contact regions (29, 29'; 62, 63) and at whose output a control signal (44) can be taken off, which is dependent on the electrical resistance of the shaped body.

Figure 1